

Here They Come: Spring Migration



Presented by Susan Puder



What is Migration?

- Movement
- Process of going from one climate and location to another climate and location
- In Western Hemisphere most birds migrate in north/south directions

New Jersey and Migration

- Over 900 birds in North America; NJ 445, 50% approximately are migratory
- Situated on Atlantic Flyway (between Appalachian Mountains and Atlantic)
- NJ mid-way between equator and Arctic
- Bird migration at heights in spring and fall
- NJ location provides food and resting area for tens of thousands of birds during migrations

Migrations

- Latitudinal: Migrate south to north, east to west due to seasonal changes
- Altitudinal: Migrate from lowlands to highlands (mostly in the tropics)
- Transectional: Mixed flocks moving around same areas over period of time

Why Birds Migrate?

- Food and nesting locations
- Move from areas of low resources to areas of high or increasing resources
- Birds in northern hemisphere tend to head north in spring for increasing insects, budding plants, and nesting sites
- As winter approaches, they head south as food sources become limited

Triggers and Navigation

- Length of day
- Dropping temperatures
- Reduced food supply
- Many travel the same flight path year after year
- Fledglings follow unescorted the same path
- Use position of sun and/or stars
- Earth's magnetic fields
- Landmarks



Dunlin Flock

Hazards and Tracking

- Lack of food
- Predators
- Bad weather
- Tall buildings
- Cell towers and wind turbines
- Banding
- Satellite tracking



American Oystercatcher

Migratory Patterns

- Permanent residents: do not migrate—can find adequate food during winter. Cardinals and crows
- Short distance migrants: permanent residents who migrate to edges of their range. Bobwhite and Hairy woodpeckers
- Medium distance migrants: range over large parts of US and Canada, but remain in No. America. Blue Jays, Bluebirds, Killdeer, Osprey
- Long distance migrants: cover thousands of miles and many days or weeks to complete migration.

Long Distance Migrants

- Arctic Terns migrate from Arctic to Anarctica twice a year; in 30 years of life can travel 800,000 miles
- Red Knots—travel from Tierra del Fuego to Arctic; round-trip 20,000



Spring Migration in NJ

- Starts in March, with many staying in NJ
- Peaks during April and May
- Waterfowl, warblers, raptors, passerines can be seen all over NJ

Piping Plovers



Climate Change

- Two new reports identify threats to bird species due to climate change
 - Climate.audubon.org
 - www.stateofthebirds.org
- Out of 588 species studied in North America, 314 species are at risk in the next 50 years due to climate change
- Many in NJ due to being on Atlantic Flyway

Best Locations

- Best locations are Cape May, Sandy Hook, Garrett Mountain, Belleplain State Forest, Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware Bayshore

Southern Ocean Birding Group

- Meets First Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
- Tuckerton Seaport—Hunting Shanty
- Monthly field trips
- Conducts Annual Christmas Bird Count
- www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org
- Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group, on [Facebook](#)